



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### December 2, 2020

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Receive update on the Town’s Residential Rental Assistance Program to assist extremely low-income renters whose household incomes were adversely affected by COVID-19 and who are at risk of homelessness

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Receive report.

#### **DISCUSSION**

At its August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council approved the creation of a rental assistance program for residents and allocated \$60,000 for the program. The purpose of the program is to help residents in need whose household incomes are adversely impacted by COVID-19. The program is modeled after the County program, which was limited to extremely low-income households (i.e., earning 30% or less of median income adjusted for household size) and who were also at-risk of homelessness. St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) and Ritter Center both volunteered to administer the program on behalf of the Town. For simplicity, the funding was split between SVdP and Ritter Center. The two non-profits coordinate their efforts to ensure there is no duplication of services to residents.

SVdP and Ritter Center provided the following status update on the program:

<b>Status of Fairfax Rental Assistance Program</b>		
	As of 10/13/20	As of 11/20/20
	Number	Number
Grants Awarded	8	16
Grants in process	1	0
Waiting for applicant documentation	4	6
Still in process of being contacted	10	2
Closed due to no response after multiple efforts (3)	8	8
Ineligible/no longer need assistance	7	6
<b>Total applicants</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
Total amount of grants awarded	\$ 15,967.50	\$ 24,608.50
Balance remaining	\$ 44,032.50	\$ 35,391.50
Average grant amount/household	\$ 1,995.94	\$ 1,538.03
Median of grants (50% above and 50% below)	\$ 2,037.50	\$ 1,491.50
Highest grant amount	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Lowest grant amount	\$ 1,387.50	\$ 490.00

The above table shows that they are waiting for six (6) applicants to submit documentation and are in the process of contacting two (2) applicants. If all 8 of these applicants receive grants, based on the average grant amount of approximately \$1,540/household, the project would award another \$12,300 (approx.) in grants. This would leave an approximate balance of \$23,000.

Both non-profits have indicated they would be willing to continue to administer the program if the Town revised the guidelines and allocated additional funding. However, their preference would be for the Town to consider providing assistance to those households who previously received rental assistance from the Town or other programs, but require additional assistance. We recommend the Town Council wait until the application process has been completed for those 8 households in the pipeline before considering any program revisions.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

n/a